

16 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

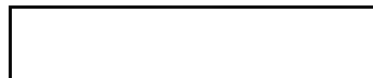
SUBJECT: Rampart

1. Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, (D., N. Y.), called me mid-afternoon to indicate that he had just made a press release concerning the Ramparts matter which he wanted to read to me. He then read a rather long statement the gist of which was that the Agency was being unfairly belabored on a tempest in a tea pot issue; that there is nothing whatsoever wrong with governmental support to U.S. student and youth groups who have to meet the professionals from the other side in the international arena, and that some might question the objectivity of the Ramparts magazine which is notable for highly critical attitude towards U.S. foreign policy. He cited as an analogous situation John F. Kennedy's interest in subsidizing the U.S. Olympic athletes because "the other side" uses "professionals" and it is important that we field our best.

2. The strong wording in the press release reflected Mr. Stratton's obviously strong feelings. He said that the general silence surrounding the whole affair was deafening and he felt that an unsolicited statement of support was needed to prevent the debate from becoming one-sided.

3. I thanked Mr. Stratton for the expression of support intended by his press release and he laughingly remarked that since he really knew so little about us it was very logical for him to make such a statement. In closing he also lamented the fact that the overall appearance was that the Agency had done something bad and that the Administration was going to have to crack down on the Agency.

4. George McManus was advised of the above.



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